

Office of the Governor  
State of Louisiana

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GOVERNOR



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February 10, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

*Through:* George A. Robinson  
Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region VI  
800 North Loop 288  
Denton, TX 76209-3698

**VIA FAX: 940-898-5325**

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare an expedited major disaster for the State of Louisiana as a result of the tornadoes that occurred on February 7, 2017, which devastated several Louisiana communities. The response to the tornadoes has overwhelmed the capabilities of State and local resources. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and local governments, and that in accordance with 44 CFR § 206.36, supplementary federal assistance is necessary to supplement the efforts and available resources of the State and local governments, disaster relief organizations, and compensation by insurance for disaster related losses.

I am specifically requesting an expedited Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance, including all programs for Individual Assistance, for the following four (4) Parishes: Ascension, Livingston, Orleans, and St. James. I am also specifically requesting an expedited Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance (Categories A-G) for the following five (5) Parishes: Ascension, Livingston, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. James.

On February 7, 2017, a violent storm system covering much of southeastern Louisiana moved through the area bringing strong winds and tornadoes which caused severe damage, including multiple injuries, hundreds of damaged homes and thousands without power. Multiple tornadoes were spawned from the severe weather that moved across the State and hail was

reported across southeast Louisiana. Eleven (11) different instances of tornadic activity were reported in seven (7) Parishes. The tornadoes that tore through New Orleans East, as well as Watson, have been confirmed by the National Weather Service (NWS) as EF-3s, the most intense these areas have ever seen. The February 7<sup>th</sup> weather severely damaged homes, businesses and public infrastructure in the Parishes of Ascension, Livingston, Jefferson, Orleans, St. James, Tangipahoa, and St. Tammany.

I am requesting Public Assistance (Categories A-G) for the Parishes of Ascension, Livingston, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. James and Hazard Mitigation statewide. I also request the full complement of Individual Assistance Programs for the Parishes of Ascension, Livingston, Orleans, and St. James due to massive and extended tornadic devastation affecting uninsured homes and injuring thirty-nine (39) people in the aforementioned Parishes. Specifically, I request the Individual Assistance Programs include the Individual and Households Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Crisis Counseling, Disaster Legal Services, Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Program, Disaster Case Management and the Small Business Administration Disaster Loans Program.

In response to this situation, I have taken the appropriate action under State law and proclaimed a state of emergency on February 7, 2017 (17 JBE 2017) and ordered the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan in accordance with Section 501(a) of the Stafford Act. A copy of the declaration of the state of emergency is attached.



## **FATALITIES AND INJURIES**

Over the affected seven (7) Parish area, there were thirty-nine (39) individuals who were injured and transported by ambulance to area hospitals, four (4) of which had traumatic injuries. Per our state emergency response plan, Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN) directed trauma transport.

## **COMMITTED STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES**

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State and local resources that have been committed to alleviate the conditions of this emergency:

### **STATE ACTIONS**

#### **Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP)**

- GOHSEP activated the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and it is operating at a Level III status. GOHSEP is providing support to local governments throughout the course of the event.
- GOHSEP Regional Coordinators are maintaining communication with Parishes and GOHSEP for situational awareness.
- Mobilizing initial damage assessment teams to affected Parishes.
- Coordinating with FEMA to deploy joint PDA teams.
- Coordinating with Civil Air Patrol to provide overflights and photography of affected areas.
- State and Federal officials surveyed affected areas on February 8, 2017 in preparation for joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs).

#### **State Fire Marshal (OSFM)**

- Orleans Parish: Personnel continue to support ongoing operations with New Orleans Fire Department (NOFD).
- NOFD assembled 8 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) search teams with a medical specialist assigned to each group for a total of 40 members to provide a secondary search of the affected area.
- Grid door to door searches were performed. Operations include personnel from New Orleans Police Department (NOPD), NOFD, Orleans Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (NOHSEP), New Orleans Emergency Medical Services (NOEMS), Louisiana State Police (LSP), OSFM,

Louisiana Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections- Probation and Parole, City of New Orleans- Department of Safety and Permits.

#### **Louisiana National Guard**

- 128 Guard members activated and on duty.
- They are manning a total of 16 stations/checkpoints with NOPD.
- Operational support with two (2) Helicopters, including the use of FLIR for overflights.
- Water, tarps, MREs are being strategically staged near disaster area.
- A liaison officer is assigned to the NOHSEP command post.
- New Orleans has requested support personnel through February 28, 2017.

#### **Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD)**

- DOTD ESF-3 Public Works and Engineering is in contact with DOTD Districts in impacted areas, DOTD District personnel are coordinating with local OEPs and public works.
- DOTD personnel are working to clear US 90 in New Orleans East.
- DOTD provided fifty (50) type III barricades and cones to assist with road closures.
- Providing OSFM with two mobile light towers for search and rescue in the New Orleans area.

#### **Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)/ Louisiana Emergency Response Network (LERN)**

- 28 injuries absorbed into Region 1 Hospitals.
- 9 injuries absorbed into Region 2 Hospitals.
- 2 injuries absorbed into Region 9 Hospitals.

#### **American Red Cross (ARC)**

- Red Cross communicating with affected Parish OEPs. Public Affairs sending out safety messages and updating news media.
- Total of 12,000 meals and snacks have been provided across the affected parishes.
- Southeast Louisiana Area – Orleans/Metro/Northshore:
  - St. Tammany:
    - Conducting ARC Damage Assessments (DA)
  - Orleans Parish – New Orleans East Area:

- Supporting New Orleans EOC and Mobile Command Post with ARC Liaisons.
- Shelter is now open: Orleans Parish Managing Joe Brown Memorial Park (5601 Read Blvd., New Orleans 70127).
- Shelter population: 100 persons
- ARC Team is supporting shelter with cots, blankets, comfort kits.
- Red Cross providing meals at shelter through a faith-based organization - New Orleans Mission.
- (2) Emergency Response Vehicles (ERV) are on site: Mobile Command Post and Joe Brown Park Shelter.
- Capital West Area:
  - Livingston Parish – Killian Area/Watson/Independence:
    - ERV deployed to affected area.
    - Providing food, water, tarps, clean up kits to Killian area.
    - Sending DA team to Watson and Independence.
  - Ascension Parish – Donaldsonville Area:
    - Red Cross opened and managing a shelter in Ascension Parish – Donaldsonville at Faith Christian Center (210 Plimsol Road).
    - ERV deployed to affected area providing food, water, tarps, clean up kits.
    - DA team in affected area.
    - Setting up client intake at a church in the affected area.

### **Public Service Commission**

- Major, widespread damage was sustained to the power line infrastructure in several Parishes, including Ascension, Livingston, Jefferson, Orleans, St. James, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes.
- Total power outages due to storms are 16,581, with the vast majority in Orleans Parish.
- Preliminary damage reports include roughly 50 transmission poles down (the lines that bring the power from the power plant to the substations) and 6 distribution lines damaged (the power lines that provide residents and business with power).
- Currently there are approximately 2,560 customers without power in the Donaldsonville area. There are an additional 850 customers without power in Ascension Parish. Crews have identified 10 to 12 poles down on Hwy 3120 and Hwy 18 in Ascension Parish near CF Industries. The tornado also severely impacted the area near Williams and St. Patrick Streets with several poles down in that area.

- Livingston Parish: There will be challenges for crews, and a smaller number of members to be out for longer than the others.
- Not only did this storm damage the electrical facilities, gas structures in New Orleans East were also damaged. Gas crews are currently assessing damage and responding to leak calls ensuring customer locations are safe. Most of the leaks found were at the customer meter and fuel lines. The gas crews are walking house to house in blocks where leaks were reported and are turning off the gas on severely damaged homes and businesses.

#### **Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)**

- Reported tornado went through Orleans parish and damaged storage tanks, buildings and power lines at the Crystal Clean facility.
- LDEQ Emergency Response still on site at facility. An above ground used oil tank was found to be leaking as well as a wastewater tank. Clean up crews were required.
- A natural gas line was also damaged by tornado. Material released from storage tanks into containment. In process of putting boom out around containment area as a precaution. Power is currently out.

#### **Louisiana State Police (LSP)**

- Ascension Parish: A total of 16 Troopers, including 1 Lieutenant and 2 Sergeants are assigned to the troop in the area. A total of 4 Troopers were sent to Ascension Parish to assist the Ascension Parish Sheriff's Office with tornado damage searches and recovery.
- Jefferson/Orleans Parishes: A total of 35 Troopers are in Orleans Parish, including 1 Trooper at the Orleans Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness. Troopers conducted searches of damaged houses within the boundaries of Wilson Avenue, Dwyer Road, Wright Road, and Chef Menteur Highway in New Orleans East, manning roadblocks, and assisting with patrols in the area.
- St. Tammany/Tangipahoa Parishes: Troop L has 2 Sergeants, and 9 Troopers assigned to the current shift. Two of those Troopers have been sent to New Orleans East to assist with storm damage operations. Team E has 1 Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant and 1 Trooper currently working. Troopers are actively monitoring roadways and are in contact with local agencies.

### **Louisiana Sheriffs Association Emergency Task Force (LSA)**

- Sheriffs from around the state have mobilized their Task Force at the request of Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlon Guzman and NOPD Chief Michael Harrison.
- A total of 36 deputies are now deployed to assist in Orleans Parish with public safety missions.

### **Salvation Army**

- The New Orleans Area Command of The Salvation Army deployed a canteen (mobile kitchen) to the Command Post at Wilson and Chef Menteur Hwy. Additional details will be posted as they become available.

### **Louisiana VOAD**

- Samaritan's Purse in route to New Orleans for assessment.
- Crisis Cleanup has a live incident "S LA Tornadoes Feb. 2017" available to coordinate work orders for cleanup.

## **PARISH ACTIONS**

### **St. James**

- Tornado reported west side of the Sunshine Bridge on June Street in a small community known as Lemannville.
- 14 homes damaged with an additional 5 destroyed. 1 business reported damaged. Law Enforcement, Parish Social Services and Emergency Management staff are conducting assessments of residents and damaged areas. Crews are hindered with assessments due to downed trees and power lines.
- Parish is working with Entergy to restore power outages. Approximately 532 are still without power. Entergy is reporting it may take up to two days to restore power in Lemannville.
- Gas and Water services are disconnected until Parish utilities deem safe for restoration. Parish will go door-to-door to advise residents on restoring power.
- 2 reported minor injuries.
- American Red Cross responding.
- Sheriff's Office is providing 24 hour security.
- Public Works is assisting in debris removal. Volunteers also assisting residents with minor roof repairs.
- Parish issued an emergency declaration.

- The Sheriff's mobile command is located on Charles Street. Deputies will be on-site throughout the night.



### **Ascension**

- Tornado confirmed to have touched down in the Donaldsonville area at approximately 11:00 am near the Old Rice Mill and northeast into the city including Williams and St. Patrick Street.
- The Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) Director was on scene assessing damages, so far those reveal roof damage, car damage and vegetative debris.
- CF Industries has also reported some damage.
- Approximately 850 without power.
- 3 injuries in St Gabriel were transported to area hospitals.
- Approximately 10 damaged homes; 2 businesses damaged.



## **Livingston**

- Officials and NWS confirmed tornado activity in the Killian and Springfield area.
- 5 homes have been damaged and 2 destroyed with numerous trees and powerlines down in the Killian area.
- Watson area damages as confirmed by OSFM include 21 homes and trailers heavily damaged, 1 camper trailer, and several vehicles.
- 3 injuries reported, 2 transported to hospital.
- Emergency Medical Services and American Red Cross responded.

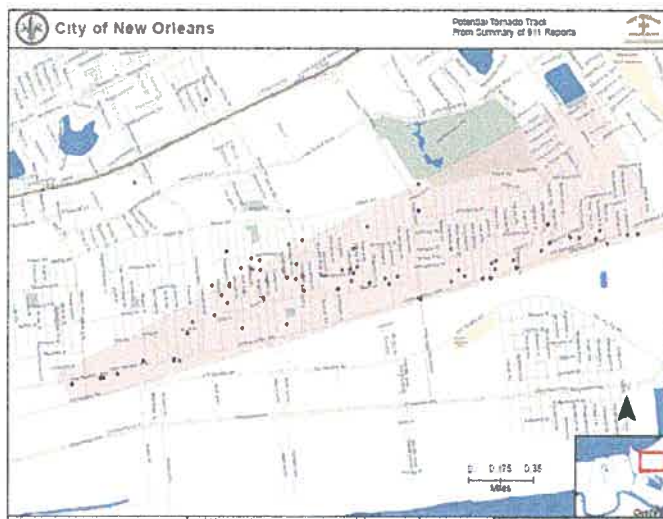


## **Jefferson**

- NWS confirmed tornado touchdown at approximately 10:45 am between the 700 block of St George Avenue and 3700 block of Jefferson Highway.
- Approximately 20 structures sustained light to moderate damage.
- Power outages affect 250 Entergy customers.

## Orleans

- Tornado activity was spotted by NOFD and NOPD in the area of Chef Mentour Hwy. and Downman Road. Parish field surveys are underway and the NWS has confirmed the tornado was of EF-3 strength.
- Reporting 814 houses damaged; 32 apartments damaged; 40 businesses damaged.
- Einstein Sherwood Forest School and Schaumburg School both sustained heavy damage. No injuries but children sheltered in place and a dismissal program was put together. These schools remain closed.
- 7 schools are closed in New Orleans East due to power outages or due to roadways blocked by damage.
- At NASA MICHOU D facility sustained damage to final assembly side of facility, South side of building 103, and approximately 80 percent of cars in the parking lot flipped or damaged. The USDA building was hit hard, gas leaks being identified and shut down. Delaying securing flight hardware until the building structure is sound.
- Search and Rescue Teams conducted door to door search to ensure no one is trapped.
- Approximately 31 injuries.
- Joe Brown Park Shelter: 100 residents.
- Unified command established at Chef Mentour Hwy and Wilson.
- Four (4) trauma patients transported by New Orleans Emergency Medical Services (NOEMS) - Dozens of minor injuries transported to area hospitals.
- Along with the Mayor of New Orleans and many other officials, I completed a ground tour of the tornado damage area in New Orleans East.
- Debris and damage assessments have begun.
- Regional Transit Authority (RTA) service has been modified on Chef Mentour Hwy due to storm damage.
- Approximately 5,698 are without power.





### **Tangipahoa**

- OHSEP reported 3 possible tornadoes impacting the Parish. First, a large tornado moved through Akers south of Ponchatoula heading towards Madisonville. A second that caused damage in Ponchatoula and possible a third near Amite. NWS believes this may be the same as what passed through the Killian area.
- Approximately 3 are without power.

### **St. Tammany**

- Reports of a tornado touchdown in Madisonville at Highway 22 and Pine Street with possible damage in northern St Tammany.
- 3 homes in the Madisonville area with moderate to major damage.
- More than 100 without power.



## ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

Just days before the tornadoes swept the state, I issued Proclamation Number 14 JBE 2017, calling the Louisiana Legislature into special session to address a \$304 million budget shortfall for the current fiscal year (FY17). The legislature will convene on February 13<sup>th</sup> to consider significant and painful cuts to state agencies and departments to address this mid-fiscal year shortfall.

Further, the FY17 budget does not include any funds for flood related expenses. State departments and agencies have already advanced over \$246 million in unbudgeted dollars for flood response. Although a percentage of that will be reimbursed by the federal government, most of that will not occur in this fiscal year. The state also had pending obligations arising from the 2016 floods. The cost share for Individual Assistance alone on those disasters is already over \$51 million and rising. Additionally, while the State is struggling to balance the current fiscal year's budget, the FY 18 budget will also require some difficult decisions about priorities.

Several factors have driven the State's current economic crisis, including eight consecutive years of no growth in revenue but continuous rising in mandated costs. The State experienced a large influx of federal dollars during the recovery efforts of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, however during this same period, the non-federal revenue of the State stagnated or fell. The balloon effect of the federal dollars masked the overall reduction of money available to the State. Once those federal dollars were depleted, the State felt the effects of the overall national recession in 2008.

The State budget woes are just a symptom of the State's overall struggling economy. The true impact is on Louisiana's residents. The United Way's Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) project describes the financial hardship of Louisiana with several key factors:

Low wage jobs dominate the local economy. More than 70 percent of jobs in Louisiana pay less than \$20 per hour, with most paying less than \$15 per hour (\$15 per hour full time = \$30,000/year). These jobs –especially service jobs that pay below \$20 per hour and require only a high school education or less – will grow far faster than higher-wage jobs over the next decade. These low paying jobs decrease the ability of citizens to be self-resilient in their preparation or reaction to disasters, a common place occurrence in Louisiana.

The basic cost of living outpaces wages. The cost of basic household expenses in Louisiana is more than most of the region's jobs can support. The average annual Household

Survival Budget for a Louisiana family of four (two adults with one infant and one preschooler) is \$42,444 – nearly double that of the U.S. family poverty level of \$23,550.

A problem throughout the State is jobs are not located near housing that is affordable. After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and through the Great Recession from 2007 to 2010, housing affordability fell by one-third, and job opportunities fell 9 percent. Conditions did not improve from 2010 to 2013, so it remains difficult for lower income households to find both housing affordability and job opportunities in many Parishes in Louisiana.

Public and private assistance helps, but doesn't achieve financial stability. Assistance provides essential support for households below the ALICE Threshold, but cannot lift all households to economic stability. Government, nonprofit, and health care organizations spend \$11.5 billion on services for ALICE and poverty level households in Louisiana to supplement their income, but even that total is still 7.7 percent short of lifting all households above the ALICE Threshold.

Louisiana's government was already struggling to provide needed assistance to a struggling population before the floods of 2016 devastated over 90% of the State. Now that Parish assets and budgets are depleted, the local agencies are relying on the State to fill those gaps. The State, unfortunately, has no assets to do such. Even volunteer agencies located in the State have been utilized and worn-out, many spending thousands of hours on mucking operations for months.

Presently, I am in Washington, D.C. to lobby for additional flood relief for Louisiana. The state remains at least \$1 billion short of the amount needed for housing alone to help our citizens recover from the 2016 floods.

### **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.48, there are several factors to consider for Public Assistance:

1) **Estimated Cost of Assistance**

State and local officials are still conducting search and rescue, with life safety as their top priority. Considering the amount of devastation, I expect our emergency managers to remain in the response phase of incident management for at least 72 hours. Only after resolving all life safety concerns can we begin to assess the monetary damage sustained in the affected area.

It is anticipated that Categories A costs for this disaster will be high due to these Parishes still recovering from the August flooding event referenced below. Homes, business and communities have significant amounts of construction debris due to these recovery efforts which has now been exacerbated due to vegetative and other “new” debris created by these tornadoes. The nature of tornado debris is that it is highly localized but incredibly intense. Debris amounts are expected to be higher than normal. Orleans parish debris contractors have estimated that collection of debris in New Orleans East alone will cost nearly \$1,100,000.



Category B costs associated with this event have been and will continue to be incurred. The National Guard has been activated and has 146 members currently manning 25 checkpoints in coordination with NOPD. They are conducting reconnaissance and security helicopter overflights in the area. Additional law enforcement and security resources have been and will continue to be deployed in Orleans parish. Additionally, augmented staffing numbers and additional patrol and mission assignments for law enforcement and public safety agencies have been necessary in the affected parishes.



Damage assessments will be conducted by joint FEMA-State preliminary damage assessment (PDA) teams in the Parishes of Ascension, Livingston, Jefferson, Orleans, St. James, and St. Tammany. Additionally, prior to the activation of the joint teams, the recovery staff at the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) will additionally be conducting preliminary damage assessments in those affected Parishes.

## 2) Power Outages

The Louisiana Public Service Commission reports major, widespread damage was sustained to the power line infrastructure in several Parishes, including Ascension, Livingston, Jefferson, Orleans, St. James, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes. Total power outages due to storms are 16,581, with the vast majority in Orleans Parish. Currently there are approximately 2,560 customers without power in the Donaldsonville area. There are an additional 850 customers without power in Ascension Parish.

Preliminary damage reports include roughly 50 transmission poles down (the lines that bring the power from the power plant to the substations) and 6 distribution lines damaged (the power lines that provide residents and business with power) in Orleans parish alone. Crews have identified 10 to 12 poles down on Hwy 3120 and Hwy 18 in Ascension Parish near CF Industries. The tornado also severely impacted the area near Williams and St. Patrick Streets with several poles down in that area.

Livingston Parish is serviced by Dixie Electric Member Corporation (DEMCO) and they report that they will encounter additional challenges for crews due to the small and mostly rural nature of their customers. This may cause a number of members to be out for longer than the others.

Not only did this storm damage the electrical facilities, gas structures in New Orleans East were also damaged. Gas crews are currently assessing damage and responding to leak calls ensuring customer locations are safe. Most of the leaks found were at the customer meter and fuel lines. The gas crews are walking house to house in blocks where leaks were reported and are turning off the gas on severely damaged homes and businesses.

With such severe damage, power will remain a concern for the foreseeable future.

### 3) Localized Impacts

The local communities are overwhelmed with the massive amount of fallen trees, debris, downed power lines and poles. Many areas are inaccessible to citizens and emergency crews throughout the impacted region. The State of Emergency remains in effect, allowing State resources to help secure the uninhabitable areas of the impacted area and aid in road clearing and debris removal, so emergency services can access all parts of the region. Many fire hydrants are covered with debris or otherwise inaccessible to emergency responders. For the aforementioned reasons, life safety remains our main concern in the affected area. Normal Parish and city operations continue to be seriously disrupted due to road conditions and power outages. Many businesses remain closed resulting in a significant loss of revenue. Parts of the affected area can largely be described as rural and local resources are simply not enough for the impacted area to recover from this series of disasters efficiently.





New Orleans East, while part of the city of New Orleans, it is a unique, distinct area of the city. The focus of the damage of the EF-3 tornado in Orleans parish was in this specific area. Local law enforcement, as well as State Police, National Guard, and LSA Task Force resources are deployed and will be needed to maintain public safety and law and order in the affected areas. Additional patrols, checkpoints, augmented staffing and schedules have been implemented. Debris removal from his area, as mentioned above, is anticipated to cost at least \$1,100,000.

**4) Insurance Coverage in Force**

No estimated eligible category A and category B public assistance expenses are expected to qualify for insurance coverage.

**5) Hazard Mitigation**

As previously noted, the State of Louisiana has an approved state mitigation plan. Previous mitigation efforts by the State and local governments undoubtedly contributed to a reduction of both loss to property and injury or death to individuals. Further Hazard Mitigation assistance will continue to create a more resilient region and State.

**6) Recent Multiple Disasters**

Louisiana is still recovering from a number of major disasters in the last ten years. Hurricane Katrina, the largest disaster in U.S. history and Hurricane Rita impacted the State in 2005. Those two enormous disasters were followed by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2007. In April, 2010, the economy of the State received an additional devastating blow coming from the Deepwater Horizon Incident. It is suggested that the aftermath of this incident continues to hamper the economic recovery of the State even now. In 2011, the State experienced two events which resulted in a two Major Declarations, first in June from flooding along the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers and in October as a result of Tropical Storm Lee. This was followed by yet another Major Declaration in August 2012 when Hurricane Isaac made landfall in southeast Louisiana.

Additionally, there were incidents in 2014-2015 that resulted in the issuance of four (4) State declarations: 68 BJ 2015 (severe weather and flooding), 44 BJ 2015 (severe winter weather), 26 BJ 2015 (severe winter weather), and 107 BJ 2014 (severe weather and tornadoes).

More recently, the State has experienced four (4) events in the last twelve (12) months which have required activation of the State's emergency response plan and which has further stretched State resources. In addition to the substantial response to this severe weather required,

Louisiana is currently operating under three (3) additional states of emergency and one (1) public health emergency as outlined below.

**205 BJ 2015**

Between December 28, 2015 and February 1, 2016, the State experienced significant flooding along the Mississippi River. In connection with that incident, I requested an emergency declaration which was granted and was designated as FEMA-3376-EM.

**111 JBE 2016**

I declared state of emergency via proclamation number 111 JBE 2016 concerning August 13, 2016 flooding which caused major, widespread flooding throughout 14 Parishes. This event resulted in Major federal disaster declaration #DR-4277. Assistance in categories A-G were provided to the state for this disaster, currently totaling \$755,685,396 in approved Individual Assistance and \$294,226,470 in obligated Public Assistance funding. Ascension, Livingston, St. James, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes were affected by this flooding as well as the tornadoes that are the subject of this request. The State and Parish cost shares for this disaster are:

Ascension	\$10,800,000
Livingston	\$9,600,000
St. James	\$46,000
St. Tammany	\$25,000
Tangipahoa	\$636,000
State:	\$25,100,000

**4 JBE 2017**

I declared a state of emergency via proclamation number 4 JBE 2017 to exist at Camp Minden as a result of a threat of detonation of potentially unstable M6 propellant and other explosives that threaten the health and safety of residents of Minden, LA, requiring continuous state and local response.

**15 JBE 2017**

I proclaimed a continuation of a state of emergency, originally issued via proclamation number 31 JBE 2016 as a result of severe weather across south Louisiana. This action resulted in my request for and the granting of a major federal disaster declaration (#DR-4263) for Assistance for thirty seven (37) Parishes. Assistance in categories A-G was ultimately provided

to the state for this disaster, currently totaling \$93,812,858 in approved Individual Assistance and \$39,818,325 in obligated Public Assistance funding. The parishes of Ascension, Livingston, St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes were affected by this flooding as well as the tornadoes that are the subject of this request. The State and Parish cost shares for this disaster are:

Ascension	\$285,000
Livingston	\$110,000
St. Tammany	\$6,100,000
Tangipahoa	\$253,000
State:	\$8,400,000

### **3 JBE 2017**

I declared a public health emergency via proclamation number 3 JBE 2017 in the Town of St. Joseph as a result of finding an imminent threat to public health concerning the town's water supply. The State is committed to providing water to residents of the Town of St. Joseph for one year at an approximate cost of \$350,000 to the State.

Including the current declared states of emergency outlined above, the State of Louisiana has a total of fourteen (14) open federally declared disasters, dating back to the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. FEMA still has an open Joint Field Office (JFO) to coordinate recovery operations for the State of Louisiana. Federal assistance is needed to supplement the efforts and available resources of the State, local governments, disaster relief organizations, and compensation by insurance for disaster-related losses.

Due to the cumulative impact of this disaster coupled with the large scale disasters over the past 12 months, I ask that this event, although at this time below the normal guideline of monetary damage, be considered as to have such a devastating impact that the President allow the State to be granted Public Assistance.

As is addressed herein, those Parishes are hardly in the financial position to meet the financial burdens caused by this incident which only adds to the responsibility of the State and its need to acquire Federal assistance for those Parishes and the State agencies at issue.

### **INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE**

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.48, there are several factors to consider for Individual Assistance:

1) **Concentration of damages**

This storm system was concentrated to the low southeast portion of the State with effects on only seven (7) Parishes: Orleans, Jefferson, Livingston, Ascension, St. James, Tangipahoa, and St. Tammany. The damage to each Parish was localized to small communities within each Parish including: New Orleans East, Killian, Donaldsonville, and Lemnville.

Further, Jefferson, Livingston, Ascension, St. James, Tangipahoa and St. Tammany were all impacted by both the March and August major declaration flooding events of 2016. Livingston, Ascension, Tangipahoa, and St. Tammany have been identified as within the most impacted and at risk Parishes. They have been identified in the State's long term recovery plans.

The damage was largely contained in Orleans parish is found in a small geographic area spanning less than 2 square miles, bounded by Dwyer to the north, Chef Menteur to the south, Wilson to the West and I-510 to the east.

2) **Trauma**

There were thirty nine (39) Louisiana citizens seriously injured by these storms requiring transport to local hospital, four of which had traumatic injuries. There were thirty three (33) injuries reported; 5 requiring hospitalization reported in New Orleans East alone.

Large scale disruption of normal community functions and services. There are over 8,000 power outages remaining across the four hardest hit Parishes:

Ascension: 804  
Orleans: 7,452  
St. James: 38  
St. Tammany: 279

Downed power lines and poles across the Parishes will require some rolling outages as crews move through to clear roadways of debris. Additionally, gas structure infrastructure sustained heavy damage especially in New Orleans East, with almost 70 leaks reported. Also in New Orleans East, over 1100 structures were impacted and approximately 3,200 Orleans Parish residents remain without power. Much of Chef Menteur Highway remains closed. Nearly 100 people spent the night at the nearby shelter.

### 3) Special Populations

**New Orleans East:** New Orleans, although the State's main tourist attraction and an important historically landmark to the State, has a phenomenally high Poverty/ALICE rate at 48%. New Orleans East is even more economically fragile and has a large elderly population, many of whom are at risk. Unemployment in the affected area is 11%, which is nearly 3% higher than the rest of Orleans Parish. Median household income is around \$36,800 (approximately \$500 less than Orleans Parish). Nearly one quarter of local households earn less than \$15,000 annually. 20% of residents under the age of 10; 13% over the age of 65; approximately 90% are African American.

**Donaldsonville:** Donaldsonville also has a remarkably high poverty/ALICE rate at 48%, the highest in Ascension Parish. It also has a relatively small population of 2,593 households, but an employment rate of 7%.

**Lemannville:** Lemannville is a very small rural community with only 157 households and a poverty/ALICE rate at 35%.  
**Madisonville.** Madisonville has only 359 households and 33% are at the poverty/ALICE threshold.

**Killian:** Killian is also relatively small with only 450 households. 45% are at or below the poverty/ALICE threshold. The unemployment rate is one of the highest in the state at 20%.

### 4) Voluntary Agency Assistance

Louisiana volunteer agencies never cease to disappoint the citizens of this great State by continuing to rally even after such a daunting year. However, although the volunteer agencies are available mostly to assist with temporary feeding or man hours for clean out work. They don't have the resources or the capability to provide the recovery and rebuilding assistance these communities and the state need in order to help these residents and towns recover from this disaster.

In Orleans parish, the Eastern New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Council (ENONAC) has mobilized their members to help as needed, specifically they are helping to lean up and are looking to feed volunteers on Saturday. Household of Faith, Second Harvest, Evacuteer, and Upper Room Bible Church are all Church Based Organizations active in the area and aiding in recovery efforts.

**5) Insurance**

Joint PDA teams will be assessing the areas to determine insurance for all affected homes in the areas. It is likely that little to no homes in Orleans parish will be insured due to the economic constraints of the residents.

According to field PDA reports out of Orleans parish, a total of 814 homes were damaged. The vast majority in New Orleans East. One hundred and forty (140) homes sustained major damage and one hundred and forty seven (147) homes were destroyed for a total of 287. Of those homes with major damage or homes that were destroyed, only 24.2% of them were insured.

Orleans Parish PDA numbers:

Affected: 285  
Minor: 242  
Major: 140  
Destroyed: 147

In other affected parishes, assessment of Individual and Public Assistance needs is currently pending the review of the joint PDA teams and the assessments of any State teams that provide PDA assistance. A preliminary estimate of the households affected are found below:

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Households effected</b>
Orleans (New Orleans East)	814
Ascension (Donaldsonville)	10
St. James (Lemannville)	19
Livingston (Killian/Watson)	26

Given that it is Mardi Gras season in Louisiana, there is reduced temporarily housing stock therefore rental assistance is needed and a federal disaster declaration would allow section 8 voucher holders to transfer to another home.

**STATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

The State of Louisiana's Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA on April 1, 2014 and is expected to expire in April 1, 2019. It is a "standard" plan. The hazard mitigation plans for the affected Parishes have been approved and adopted. This disaster provides an opportunity to implement hazard mitigation projects that will reduce the impact of future

disasters of this nature. Therefore, I am requesting Hazard Mitigation assistance Statewide.

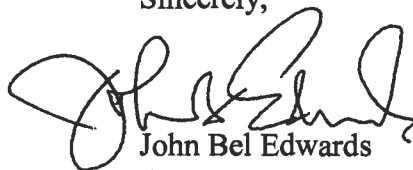
**SUMMARY**

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the State and local governments and that supplemental Federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting a major Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance, and all programs for Individual Assistance, for the following Parishes: Ascension, Livingston, Orleans, and St. James. I am also specifically requesting a major Presidential Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance (Categories A-G) for the following Parishes: Ascension, Livingston, Jefferson, Orleans, and St. James.

Specifically, I am requesting an expedited approval of IA Assistance in order to help survivors as soon as possible. The State intends to supplement this request as Joint- PDA teams finish their inspections.

I have designated James B. Waskom as the Governor's Authorized Representative ("GAR") and Mark Riley as the Alternate GAR. Mark Riley is also designated as the State Coordinating Officer ("SCO") for this request. Mr. Waskom and Mr. Riley will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and will provide further information and justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,



John Bel Edwards  
Governor

enclosures: State Emergency Declaration (17 JBE 2017)  
OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13  
Appendix A: Individual Assistance PDA sheet  
Appendix B: Additional Supporting Documentation: Letter from New Orleans  
Appendix C: Additional Supporting Documentation: Disaster Overview Maps  
Appendix D: Power Outages